

THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 32, Number 3 (Fall 2008)

BETHEL'S FIRST NEWSPAPER, *THE BETHEL COURIER*, 150 YEARS OLD IN 2008

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Bethel's first newspaper, *The Bethel Courier*, in December 1858. Established by Cady and Smith, a partnership of which little is known, the paper lasted until July 1861. The second issue featured the beginning of a series on the history of the town and surrounding area by Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True (1812-1887), a medical doctor turned educator, who was also Bethel's first historian and collected highly valuable data on the early years of the region's settlement. Dr. True also served as editor of this publication for most of its brief history.

In the 4 February 1859 issue, the philosophical basis for the publication was outlined. A portion of this text stated the following: "It will be the settled policy of our paper to encourage everything that shall promote the prosperity of our village and town as well as the towns around us. We believe in no narrow minded policy in this matter. We long to get out among the different sections of this portion of the county, and report what progress we can in every department of human industry. A great change has come over society within a few years by the introduction of railroads, and we have been led to notice the influence upon our village and community. Among the most striking changes is the readiness with which the farmer can usually exchange his surplus produce for cash. A bushel of wheat is as current as a bank note. The long spaces of sixty miles to a market is almost annihilated. A little city of itself with its own mechanics, merchants, and men of different professions springs up here and there to meet the wants of the surrounding country, while the depot serves as a warehouse where goods are sent away and received in exchange for everything wanted by the citizen. The luxuries of the city in a thousand ways brought to everyman's door, while industry in every pursuit is a loudly called for as ever. We think we see shadowed forth a steady, healthy progress in every department of industry in this vicinity. Agriculture is manifestly improving and it only becomes us to shun the dark blue weather of February and think of the balmy spring and the golden harvest of autumn. Instead of repining at our lot and grumbling about our neighbors, let us all fight manfully our way though opposing all opposing influences. This is the way to be successful and happy."

The *Courier* also carried numerous ads both local and from outside Maine. In addition, there are found in this publication articles of fiction and excerpts from newspapers from far and

wide. Foreshadowing Dr. True's later role as a regular contributor to the *Maine Farmer*, *The Courier* published pieces on agriculture. There are also bits of trivia, including the statement that "a death by accident has not occurred in the town for eleven years." News of the Academy, where True served as Principal, was also well represented. One of the most interesting and historically valuable recordings was one for 20 May 1859 with the caption: "Underground Railroad." The text beneath it stated the following: "A fugitive slave, 17 days from Baltimore, passed through this place [Bethel, presumably on the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad] on

Monday last, per above conveyance, for Canada. He seemed in pretty good spirits, though he expressed fears that he should not pass safely through Island Pond [Vermont]." In other issues is found Dr. True's account of a trip down the Androscoggin and up the Ellis river, a note on the building of Hon. David Hammons' house (27 May 1859), a plea to plant trees on the Common, which was recently cleared of rocks, and a description of the Bethel Mineral Spring (24 June 1859 issue). In the 8 July 1859 issue, Dr. True repeated his reasons for writing his historical sketches indicating that he was "desirous of ascertaining the names of all those boys in the village who are in the habit of being out late at night, in order to insert them in the history of the town." The Doctor continued, "It will afford the future historian a fair opportunity to know what kind of men they have made, as a result of their early habits." He continued in this vein by urging that "private boarding houses will confer a special favor in giving the desired information." Other topics found in this newspaper include a trip down the Androscoggin in the new steamship "Pioneer" (22 July 1859), a description of

The Bethel Courier.
JAMES NUTTING, Proprietor.
N. T. TRUE, Editor.

Published every FRIDAY MORNING—Office
in FRS MAN'S BLOCK, BETHEL HILL.

TERMS.

One Copy one year, (in advance) - - \$1.00
" " six months, - - - - - .50
If payment is delayed after the expiration of three months \$1.25 will be charged, till the close of the year, \$1.50.
All communications of a business character should be directed to the "BETHEL COURIER."

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

1 Square of 15 lines or less, 3 insertions,	\$1.00
" " " " 1 month,	\$1.25
" " " " 2 " "	\$2.00
" " " " 3 " "	\$3.00
" " " " 6 " "	\$4.50
" " " " 1 year,	\$8.00

Transient Advertisements payable in advance.

AGENTS:

S. R. NILES, (successor to V. B. Palmer.) Newspaper Advertising Agent, No. 1, Seely's Building, Court street, Boston.
S. M. PETTINGILL & CO., No. 10 State Street, Boston, and 122 Nassau St., N. Y.
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No paper discontinued, unless at our option, until arrearages are paid.
No deduction will in any case be made from the advertised rates of the Courier.
Job Printing of all kinds executed with neatness and despatch at this office.

The proprietor, editor, subscription prices, etc. from an 1859 issue of The Bethel Courier

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.--A fugitive slave, 17-days from Baltimore, passed through this place on Monday last, per above conveyance, for Canada. He seemed in pretty good spirits, though he expressed some fears that he should not pass safely through Island Pond.

Underground Railroad item found in the 20 May 1859 issue of The Bethel Courier

Mason Park (23 September 1859 issue), created by Dr. Moses Mason in back of his house, and a report on the dedication of the Methodist Church (3 May 1861). Following his resignation as principal at Gould Academy, Dr. True also withdrew as editor of *The Courier*. It did not last long after the Doctor's departure,

as the last issue of this publication appeared on 19 July 1861 and the subscription list was then transferred to the *Oxford Democrat*.

BETHEL CITIZEN TURNS 100 IN 2008

In 1895, Aked Ellingwood of Milan, NH, started the *Bethel News*, at the printing facilities he established in the rear of the first floor of the Cole Block, built in 1891. The following year, Ernest C. Bowler of Palermo, who was the local superintendent of schools, acquired a half interest in the enterprise. In 1897, Bowler took full control of the newspaper.

Nine years later, in 1906, Bowler opened an office in Rumford and established the *Rumford Citizen*. This paper was operated separately from the *Bethel News*, but they were both printed in the Bethel plant. On 7 May 1908, the two papers were consolidated under the name *Oxford County Citizen*.

Fred Merrill (1879-1948) bought the paper from Bowler in 1913; Bowler who moved away, later became business manager of Portland's *Daily Eastern Argus*. Merrill, a Bowdoin graduate with a Harvard Law degree had been associated with Ellery C. Park and Addison E. Herrick in the practice of law and the management of the Bethel Savings Bank and the Bethel National Bank.

The next owner of the *Citizen* was David Forbes (1891-1958) of Gorham, NH, who acquired it in 1920 from Merrill, who returned to banking. Forbes was followed by Carl L. Brown, who purchased the newspaper in 1927. A longtime employee of the firm since 1911, he served as editor from 1927 until his death in 1963. He was succeeded by his son John (1929-2006). The firm was incorporated as Citizen Printers Inc. in 1961. Actively associated with the newspaper during this period in addition to John were his brothers Edwin (1915-1997) and Donald (1919-1996) and Edwin's wife Musa.

John Brown served as editor until 1986 when Bernard Wideman, the paper's new owner (since 1984) assumed the editorship. The paper was sold to the Lewiston Sun interests in 1989 and following a couple short-term editors (Ernie Jones and Christy Cross), Michael Daniels became editor in 1990 and remains in that position at the present time. Also in 1990, Ed Snook assumed the publisher's position. The *Citizen* continues a century-long tradition of reporting on the



2008 Historic Preservation Award was presented at the annual meeting by Preservation Committee member Sally Taylor, right, to Bruce Perry for saving an early 19th century English barn frame and making it the centerpiece of his 21st century home. Earle Shettleworth, left, State Historian and Director of the Maine Preservation Commission, was the featured speaker for the evening.

area's news dealing with local government, schools, organizations and various events along with the columns of several local correspondents from various neighborhoods and surrounding towns and villages.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: info@bethelhistorical.org

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

42nd Annual Meeting held on September 11

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Maine State Historian, was the featured speaker at the Society's 42nd annual meeting held on September 11 in the Dr. Moses Mason House exhibit hall. In his slide presentation, Shettleworth provided intriguing images of figures with Maine connections who ran for national office at the presidential or vice presidential level, beginning with Hannibal Hamlin in 1860, and continuing with James G. Blaine in 1884, Thomas B. Reed and Arthur Sewell in 1896 and in the 20th century Margaret Chase Smith in 1964, George H. W. Bush in 1980, 1984, 1988, and 1992 and Edmund S. Muskie in 1968 and 1972. The speaker also included samples of campaign buttons and banners that were used in these various campaigns.

Prior to the program, there was a brief business meeting conducted by outgoing president Allen Cressy, who announced that the report of 2007 annual meeting was published in *The Courier* along with the financial statement, which was also enclosed in this mailing. Cressy noted that total assets (including buildings and equipment) had grown since the previous year to total more than \$1,267,221. A moment of silence was observed for all those members who had died since the last annual meeting. They included Robert M. Young, Barbara H. Brown, Ronald E. Snyder, Arline K. Hoar, Otis Bartlett, Dexter Stowell, Doris Valentine, Doris Brown, James T. Keith, Florence Hastings, John B. Head, Dorothy Christie, Alan Chastenet, Samuel H. Timberlake, Rudi Honkala, Michael Revay, J. Richard Littlefield, John A. Bremer, Eleanor Wilson, Richard M. Ford, Sylvia E. Wight, E. Marna McGinnis, and Arlene Lyon. President Cressy then went on to review some of the highlights of the past year: a gain of 38 individual and 4 corporate/business members, the hosting of a number of successful special events, including New Year's Bethel, the Fourth of July Community Picnic, the W. S. Ripley five band festival, a conference on the Grange in Maine, a fall barn tour, the completion of the governance museum assessment program for the American Association of Museums, the addition of trustees to the Board, the formation of a number of Board committees including Development, the sponsorship of a New England Topics course, the opening of the "Grange in Maine" exhibit, and the hosting of the Maine Mountain Heritage traveling exhibit. We also had Telstar High School student Asher Wilson as our summer intern and a Mineralogy and Mining Committee was formed. In summing up his remarks, Cressy thanked all the volunteers, staff and fellow board members for all their help and cooperation in making this year such a success.

Kent G. Taylor, a new trustee and chair of the Development Committee, spoke briefly on last year's planning study and the resulting Readiness Task Force, which he chaired in 2007-08 and the steps taken since that time to build organizational capacity. He called upon Executive Director Stan Howe to introduce the incoming Development Director James Dock, who was recently hired and was to begin his duties later in the month.

Sally Taylor of the Society's Historic Preservation Committee, in the absence of the Committee's chair, Ken Bohr, presented the 2008 Preservation Award to Bruce Perry and Heidi Davidson-Perry for the following: "The recipients rescued, removed and reassembled an early 19th century English barn from East Bethel and adapted it as the focal point of their 21st century residence on Sunset Hill."

The 22nd annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award was presented by Society Executive Director

Howe to Blake and Rachel MacKay for their outstanding service to the Society. Blake has been a long-time member of the Building Committee, where his sound advice and keen insights into building issues has been so valued since the 1980s. He has also been willing to assist the Society with any of its electrical challenges and spent many volunteer hours helping John Greenleaf in rewiring the Robinson House in the early years of the 21st century. Rachel MacKay has been active for some time as a member of the Special Projects Committee, and has volunteered numerous hours in the Society's museum shop. This award given annually honors an outstanding volunteer, who was an inspiration for many volunteers in the early days of the Society.

President Cressy presented honorary membership to the following: Suzanne Fiske, former trustee, longtime chair of the Museum Committee, and guide in the museum in the early years of the furnishing and operating the Dr. Moses Mason House; Jack and Lucy Nordahl, for Jack's longtime service in laying out each issue of *The Courier* and overseeing the technological needs of the Society and for Lucy's long service as a museum shop volunteer and her assistance with the St. Never's Day sale through the years; Warren Stearns, longtime volunteer in the Research Library, who transcribed and annotated the Powers diary currently being published in *The Courier*, contributor of information on Bethel area families included in the *Maine Families in 1790* series published by the Maine Genealogical Society; Dean and Priscella Walker, for Dean's service on the Nominating Committee for a number of years and as longtime and very active member of the Building Committee, and for Priscella's service as a trustee and as museum shop manager for several years. To be selected as an honorary member, one has to be at least seventy-five years of age and have compiled a long and outstanding record of service to the Society.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Arlene Lowell, Dean Walker and Arlan Jodrey presented the following officers and trustees for consideration: President: Susan Herlihy; Vice President: William Andrews; Secretary: Kent Taylor; Treasurer: Walter Hatch; Trustees: Rodney Harrington, Bruce Pierce, Dennis Wilson, and Allen Cressy. Mary Keniston and Arlan Jodrey were elected as the general membership's representatives on the 2009 Nominating Committee.



The 2008 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award was presented by Society Executive Director Stan Howe to Rachel and Blake MacKay for their outstanding service to the Society over many years

“The Grange in Maine” Conference held at Bethel and Harrison, September 12-13

Nearly forty participants attended some portion of the conference on the Maine Grange held at the Bethel Historical's Dr. Moses Mason House Exhibit Hall and Lakeside Grange # 63 in Harrison. Registration and a social hour were held on September 12 followed by a traditional Grange supper provided by Alder River and Pleasant Valley Granges, both of Bethel. Following the supper, participants were welcomed by State Master James Owens and by Executive Director Stan Howe, who noted that this conference was probably the first one to be held in Maine dealing with the scholarly history of the Maine State Grange. Howe, who also serves as the State Grange Historian and is the author of the most recent history of the organization, titled *“A Fair Field and No Favor”: A Concise History of the Maine State Grange*, provided an illustrated history of the Maine Grange from its beginnings in the mid-1870s to the present. He discussed the early challenges faced by the officers of the organization, its evolution and its contributions to the history of the State. Following this presentation, Thomas J. H. Reznick, a doctoral student at Yale University, presented a keynote address titled, “From the Fair to the Laboratory and Back Again? The Intersection Between Agricultural Community and Scientific Research,” in which he discussed institutional reform and scientific knowledge of farming in relation to the Grange.

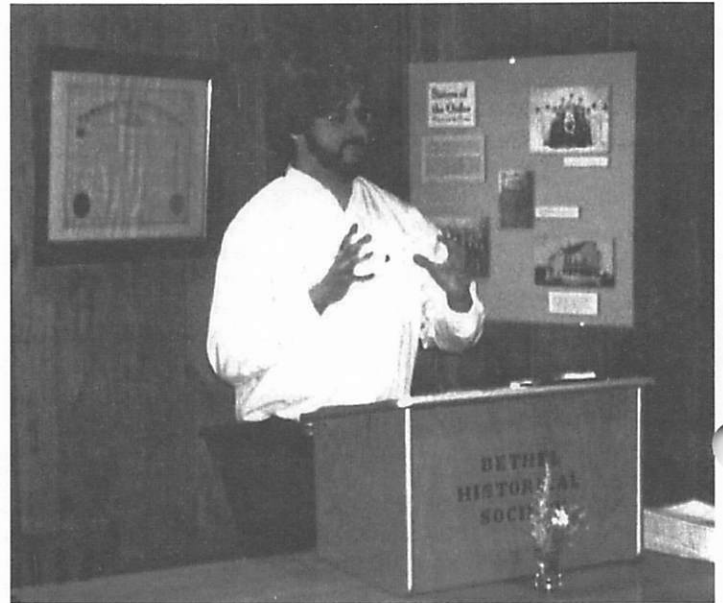
Saturday morning brought another registration session and continental breakfast provided by the Society. After introductions and announcements, Jean Hankins, an independent scholar long active in the Otisfield Historical Society and holder of a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, discussed “Women of the Grange,” where she analyzed the status of women in an organization that was the first major one to admit females on an equal basis in 1867. She noted the many contributions that women made to the Grange, but also observed that it was not until 1916 that the National Grange endorsed female suffrage just four years before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

The next speaker, Douglas I. Hodgkin, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Bates College, provided a brief, but detailed history of the story of the Lewiston Grange from its founding in the 1870s until its late 20th century demise, noting its achievements, membership levels, and changes in its hall through the years.

The final speaker for the morning was Stanley R. Howe, who discussed Maine Grange halls, presenting over fifty examples, describing their architectural significance, and interior design. These ranged from the standard, white, two and a half story vernacular structures to those former churches and school houses, which were later adapted to fulfill a role as a Grange hall.

From this point, the conference moved to Lakeside Grange

63 in Harrison for lunch served by that Grange. The hall, built in 1905 is on the National Register of Historic Places and adjoins Long Lake. A sample Grange meeting was conducted by State Master James Owens and provided insights into meeting procedures for the non-Grange attendees. The final activity was a panel discussion on Grange history, which also provided an opportunity to explore ideas as to what the future might be for an organization that has been such an integral part of life in Maine since 1874. This proved to be a lively discussion that included panelists Errol Briggs of Lakeside Grange, State Flora Vicki Huff, conference presenters Jean Hankins and Douglas Hodgkin along with James Owens, State Master. Stanley R. Howe served as moderator. This conference was sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine State Grange.



Thomas J. H. Reznick, a doctoral student in the history of science and medicine at Yale University, presented the keynote address at the conference titled, “From the Fair to the Laboratory and Back Again? The Interaction between the Agricultural Community and Scientific Research”



A “sample” Grange meeting was conducted by State Master James Owens (right) at Lakeside Grange #63, Harrison

WESTERN MAINE SAINTS

The York and Carter Families in Utah

(continued from the last issue)

by Carole York

William Furlsbury Carter was born in Newry, Maine, on 1 May 1811, and on 28 February 1832, his "intention to marry" Sarah York of Bethel—Aaron's younger sister—was filed in Newry. Their marriage would have occurred sometime soon after that date. Sarah was born on 25 August 1812. William, an experienced blacksmith, and his family stayed in Council Bluffs to help outfit the emigrant trains, and he and Sarah arrived in the Great Salt Lake Basin in 1850. Meanwhile, William had taken two plural wives. In January, 1847, in Council Bluffs, he married Cordelia Hannah Mecham. She died three months later, on 3 April 1847. On 13 March 1847, William married Roxena Mecham, a cousin of Cordelia. Roxena was born in Pennsylvania on 2 December 1830. The couple had ten children. William married two other wives in plural marriages: Elizabeth Howard (1827-1903), on 9 October 1854, and Sally Ann Mecham (1842-1910), Roxena's sister, on 2 December 1857. According to family records, William had thirty-six children and two-hundred-sixty grandchildren.

On 28 August 1852, the Church called one-hundred-six missionaries to many parts of the globe. William and five others were called to serve in India, and he left on 22 October of that year. In January, 1853, William arrived in San Francisco. On Sunday, 9 January 1853, William wrote in his journal, "San Francisco is literally alive with people. They pay no regard to the Sabbath—trading, drinking, gambling and all manner of wickedness is carried on, that can be thought of or named." On 28 January 1853, William recorded that he boarded the ship *Montsoon* [Monsoon] bound for Calcutta, where it anchored on 25 April 1853, "six months and three days" after leaving home.

In India, William and his fellow missionaries met with resistance from the British who governed India and a culture so foreign to the Mormons that it was virtually impossible to gain any converts. Upon arriving in Calcutta, William wrote, "The most of the church have apostatized, especially the natives. . . . We find the church here in bad condition, but we hope the condition of things changes for the better. The heat here is oppressive; the coldest place that I can find in the shade, I sweat like a man over a furnace." On 29 April 1853, William wrote, "Brother Fathringham [Fotheringham] and myself were appointed to go to Dinapore [probably Dinajpur], up the River Ganges, 600 miles from Calcutta. Brothers Miek and Saxon made a report of situation in the country and church. There were only seven or eight in fellowship in Calcutta." William and his missionary companion sold their watches to get money to travel to Dinajpur. Upon arriving there, he and Brother Fotheringham went to visit General Young [a British military officer], and William wrote, "He gave us little encouragement [and said he] believed in the tradition of his father and he presumed that he never would change his mind, and he presumed that the rest of the people were like him: did not want to change

their religion." General Young refused to let the missionaries preach in any of the British meeting houses (churches) and discouraged them about success converting the soldiers, stating, "They are fond of their plays and recreation." William wrote, "The prejudices against us here are strongly fettered."

Cultural differences between the Mormon missionaries and the Indians were profound. "We passed one native town today where as many as 100 men and women and children that run after us as far as they have

strength, holding out their hands and begging for something to eat. The captain [of the steam ship that was taking William and a fellow missionary from Calcutta to Dinajpur] informed us that they had lost their caste and their friends would not give them work or anything to eat, and they have to live on grass or whatever they can get." William repeatedly described scenes of death and bodies floating in the river. "It is ridiculous to see dead bodies floating on the water. I counted 40 skulls with other bones in traveling five or six miles. You can see them laying all over the sand bars." Deterred by the British, William and his missionary colleagues encountered suspicion and hostility from the Indian population. While traveling from Calcutta to Dinajpur, William wrote about a side excursion to "Chunar" [the author could not locate Chunar on a current map] in an attempt to gain converts. "We saw no possible chance of doing anything in this country at present; the prejudice is so great. The officers and priests rule the people without one exception and the wicked rule, the people mourn. We were obliged to turn back" [on the trip to Dinajpur]. Upon arriving in Dinajpur, the conditions for proselyting did not improve, and William's health deteriorated. On 26 June 1853, he wrote, "My health was tolerably good until I arrived in Chunar. By being under a tree in the hot wind and sun for about four hours, where the thermometer stood between 110-120 degrees in the shade, which overheated my blood to such a degree I have not had good health since." In addition to the tropical heat, diseases were endemic, as illustrated by the number of dead and dying that William encountered.

In ill health, William boarded the *John Gilpin* on 9 July 1853, and one-hundred-twenty-six days later he arrived in Boston. From Boston he traveled to Newry, Maine, to visit relatives. After he left Newry, William traveled by train, steamboat, and stage coach, arriving at the home of Alvin Tripp (who was married to his sister, Almira) in Lima, Illinois, on 20 December 1853. Here he learned that his father, John Carter, had died the year before. He was overjoyed to hear that Roxena had borne their third child, Edward Mecham Carter (named for her father) on 5 July



Sarah York Carter.
Courtesy of Robert E. Givens

1853. William's journal ends here. The *Deseret News* of 9 November 1854 reported that he had been appointed leader of a large wagon train traveling to Utah. William arrived home around September, 1854, two years after leaving Utah.

In 1882, when Sarah York Carter was seventy-one years old, she drove a wagon from Santaquin to Pima, Arizona, a trip that took about six weeks. Sarah was traveling with her sons, William Aaron Carter and Edwin Levan Carter, and her son-in-law and daughter, Alexander Jr., and Charlotte York Carter Wilkins. The family was traveling from Santaquin, Utah, to Pima to help settle a Mormon village, part of the colonization effort by the Church. William Aaron, Edwin Levan and Charlotte were the three youngest children of William Furlsbury and Sarah York Carter.

Christa Lillis Wilkins, a daughter of Alexander and Charlotte York Wilkins wrote about this trip: ". . . Grandmother Sarah York Carter was driving the wagon all alone. Grandmother had made the trip because it was time for mother's fifth child to be born. Grandmother had left her home in Utah to be with and help mother who was her youngest child. The Indians came rifing [rifling] down on them. . . . at the time it was the custom for the Indians to hold out their hand and shake the white man's hand saying, 'Hello John' if they were friendly. Mother was so frightened she did not know what to do, but Grandmother Carter held out her hand when they said 'Hello John' and shook hands and said right back, 'Hello John.' She seemed not frightened at all. The Indians were friendly and did not molest the family." However, the travelers had reason to be wary. Although it rarely occurred, Indians did kill some settlers, one of whom, in Pima, was Brother Thurston. "His death surely cast a gloom over the community and all the valley as this good man was well and favorably known to all the pioneers."

Initially, the settlers—thirty-three in all, including several other families—lived in their wagons, after which they began homesteading the land. Pima had been settled for only three or four years, and living conditions were primitive, many of the houses being made of cottonwood logs with dirt floors and sod roofs. Alexander, 38, died of typhoid fever on 8 September 1893, leaving Charlotte with seven children still at home (the youngest was 16 months old; Stella, the oldest, was married with one child). All the children survived to adulthood. According to Christa, her mother never got over the sorrow from the death of her husband; Charlotte died on 24 January 1943, age 87. Sarah York Carter died in Pima, Arizona, on 8 September 1888, and William Furlsbury Carter in Santaquin a month later, on 11 October 1888.

Dominicus, the first child of John and Hannah Libby Knight, was born in Scarborough, Maine, on 21 June 1806. He served three missions in 1843, 1844 and 1845, during the time the Saints were at Nauvoo. The first two missions were to Indiana, and the third to Ohio. In Provo, like his brothers (William and John "H"), Dominicus was a blacksmith. Among his other accomplishments were the following: he ran a hotel called the Lion House; he was a member of the Provo Manufacturing Company that was organized in 1853 to use the Provo River for operating machinery and irrigation; after 1851, he was a member of the city council, and an administrative assistant to the clerk of the Utah County

Court; he was active in church business and served in different capacities, including counselor from 1852-1854 to stake president George A. Smith, counselor to James C. Snow (who married to Dominicus' sister Eliza Ann), and president of the stake in 1860-1861.

During the time that Dominicus was a leader in Provo and his church stake, the Utah War took place. The War grew out of national disapproval of the Latter-day Saints' practice of polygamy. In April, 1857, President Buchanan mobilized an army to force the Mormons to comply with United States law and replace Brigham Young with Alfred Cumming as governor. In September, Brigham Young declared martial law and called up the militia to fend off the United States forces. Thirty-thousand Mormons evacuated Salt Lake City, and when the United States army arrived there on 26 June 1858, the city was deserted, church records buried and the temple foundation covered over. Thomas L. Kane, a non-Mormon friend of the Church who was prominent in United States political circles, negotiated a truce. Cumming was accepted as governor and the Saints were given amnesty. The United States army was allowed to camp forty miles south of Salt Lake City at Camp Floyd, where troops remained until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

"Not to spite his accomplishments that were many and varied . . . Dominicus Carter's greatest and longest lasting achievement was in the bearing and nurturing of his children and the befriending and cherishing of his wives," Barton Carter, a descendant wrote. Dominicus had eight wives in all. In Newry on 28 April 1828, he married Lydia Smith, also of Newry. She died near Far West, Missouri, on 23 October 1838, only two months after the couple lost their daughter, Sarah Emily, aged two, on 11 August 1838. In November 1838, Dominicus married Sophronia Babcock, who was born on 14 July 1822. Sophronia died during childbirth, as did her infant, on 26 August 1847 near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In 1860, five of Dominicus' wives remained. Lydia and Sophronia had died, and a third "had separated herself from him and married a man she would not have to share with anyone." This was Sylvia Amaretta Mecham Carter who married John Snyder in 1867. Thus it was that at least one of Dominicus' wives, Sylvia Mecham, was not content with the polygamous arrangement. Sylvia's discontent was perhaps exacerbated by the fact that of her five children by Dominicus, only Erastus survived. Moreover, like Mary Ann Frost Stearns Pratt, who divorced Parley Pratt, Sylvia was the only wife of Dominicus Carter until he married his other plural wives. The title of Todd Compton's book, *In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith*, reflects the cost of plural marriage to the couples who practiced it. Patty Bartlett Sessions also struggled with the doctrine, but accepted it as a sacred duty. After his marriage to Sylvia, Dominicus took the following five women as plural wives: Mary Durfee (1830-1885) in 1844; Polly Miner (1832-1896) in 1852; Elizabeth Brown (1833-1914) in 1852; Caroline Hubbard (1831-?) in 1854; and Frances "Fannie" Nash (1837-?) in 1857. The LDS Church renounced polygamy in 1890, although a minority continued to practice it. In 1904 a second manifesto threatened excommunication from the Church for any polygamists. Gradually, except for a splinter

group (The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) that still exists, plural marriage in the LDS Church died out.

Two laws were passed as a result of strong anti-polygamy sentiment in the United States: the Edmunds Act of 1882 and the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887. In about 1888, Dominicus was forced to choose only one of his wives and one house. Many Mormon men went into hiding, but Dominicus, now over eighty, stood his ground. Along with Church leaders Lorenzo Snow, the fifth president of the Church, and George Q. Cannon, Dominicus went to prison for several months. On 2 February 1884, Dominicus died, surrounded by four wives at his bedside. There is some disagreement about how many children Dominicus had, but a close approximation, based on family records, would be forty-six children, seventeen of whom had predeceased him; he also had eighty-seven grandchildren and forty-one great-grandchildren.

Eliza Ann Carter Snow was born on 28 September 1818 in Newry, Maine, and, “like her sister, Hannah, and brothers Dominicus, William F., and John ‘H,’ accepted the gospel teachings of the Latter-day Saints in their entirety including the doctrine of plural marriage. Enroute west with her family, Eliza married James C.[Chauncy] Snow in Kirtland, Ohio, 1838. James was born in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, on 11 January 1817, and the couple had ten children, nine of whom lived to adulthood. Eliza Ann consented to her husband’s [plural] marriages to Lydia Chadwick on 20 February 1856; to Jane Cecelia Roberts on 2 Dec 1856, and Ann Clark on 13 March 1857.”

James Snow was a community and church leader and, like Dominicus Carter, he went to prison for practicing polygamy. While he was there, Eliza wrote him a letter. The letter is undated, but must have been written after the two anti-polygamy laws were passed in 1882 and 1887. Excerpts from it illustrate the sacrifices that the Saints made for practicing their beliefs: “My dear companion . . . to think of your lonesome hours—your sorrow and sighing torn from friends and home—deprived of liberty—it destroys all my happiness. . . . If it was in my power I would decree all the [United States] soldiers so far back to hell that they would never find their way out. . . . I feel like standing up and defending Mormonism all the day long.” Eliza Ann was the author of “A Heroine of the West,” a biography of her mother, Hannah Knight Libby Carter, that described the westward trek of the Carter and York families from Bethel/Newry to Salt Lake between 1836 and 1850-1851. James Snow died on 30 April 1884, age 67; Eliza died 9 March 1897, age 79.

John “H” Carter was born on 6 October 1816 in Newry, Maine. (A brother, John Harrison Carter, had been born the year previous but died soon after, and the “H” was most likely a way to distinguish between him and his namesake.) On 11 April 1838 John married Elizabeth Runnells Sweat, born 1 July 1818 in Andover, Maine, approximately thirty miles by road from the Carter home in Newry. The couple had ten children, two of whom died in 1852. In 1844, John took Sophia Eldora Sweat, Elizabeth’s younger sister, as a plural wife. Sophia was born in Plantation B, near Andover and Newry, on 31 January 1828; she and John had nine children; two died in 1850 while the family was traveling to Utah. Sophia, who had given birth on 30 October 1849,

suffered from small pox on that journey. Her infant, Amos Libby Carter, did not develop the dreaded disease. Family records indicate that John “H” and his wives and children arrived in Provo on 3 October 1850. Not long after that, John was called to help settle the Manti-Nephi area, and by 1852 his family were living in Nephi, where he was elected to the town council. In 1856, John’s wives and children returned to Provo where John built an adobe house and blacksmith shop. Initially, the two families lived together, Elizabeth doing the weaving and clothes-making and Sophia doing the housework and cooking. In the early 1870s, John traded his house and shop and moved north to a location that came to be known as Carterville, located in a section of present-day Provo. Here John set up a blacksmith shop, and he and his sons dug an irrigation canal. By 1879, a flourishing small settlement stood where there had been nothing but wilderness only a few years earlier. Elizabeth died on 17 September 1881; John “H” died on 21 April 1896; and Sophia on 5 September 1924, aged ninety-six.

Today there are untold thousands of descendants of Aaron and Hannah Carter York and the Carter siblings who, with their mother, Hannah Knight Libby Carter, converted to Mormonism in 1834 (these were Dominicus Carter; Hannah Carter York; William Furlsbury Carter, who married Sarah York; John “H” Carter; Eliza Ann Carter Snow; and Richard Carter). Their stories illustrate the devotion, discipline and dedication of the early converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After being driven from place to place, the Mormons embarked upon a perilous journey to the barren desert lands of what was then an unorganized territory. (Utah became a “territory” in 1850—after the Saints had begun settlement—and a state in 1896.) There the Saints pioneered new communities, dug irrigation canals, and worked to establish sustainable, self-sufficient agricultural commodities that could be manufactured and sold. Although most of the Indians they met along the way were friendly, friction between the Natives and the Mormon settlers inevitably arose over competition for land and scarce resources, resulting in conflict that affected the pioneers. From its beginning in Palmyra, New York, in 1830, the LDS Church had sent missionaries to many places in the United States, and, as William Furlsbury Carter’s diary illustrates, around the globe. The Church’s political and economic power threatened non-Mormons all the way from Kirtland to Far West to Nauvoo to Utah, and the practice of plural marriage, officially announced by Orson Pratt in 1852 in Salt Lake City, further antagonized non-Mormons.

The Carter and York families were pioneers in Utah. In this way they were like their New England progenitors, who were some of the earliest settlers in parts of Maine: Colonel John and Abigail Bean York, and Abraham and Sarah Swan Russell (related to the Yorks) were among the first people of European descent to permanently inhabit Sudbury Canada, now Bethel, Maine. On the Carter side were Richard and Jane McKenney Carter, and Captain Zebulon and Lydia Andrews Carter, colonists in Scarborough, Maine, in the early 1700s. Across the miles and generations, these families, like many other early American pioneers, contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United States. ■

Photo Gallery



Musicians playing 18th century instruments were among the features of the 2008 Sudbury Canada Days summer heritage festival in August.



Donna Cassidy, Professor of Art at USM, (center) was the 2008 Hall Memorial Lecturer at Sudbury Canada Days, speaking on the Maine-born artist Marsden Huntley with John Payne (left) and David Sanderson.



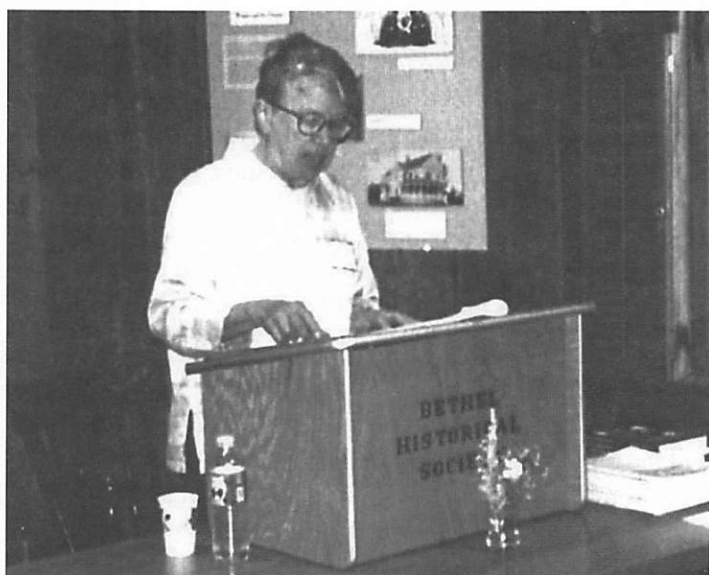
Douglas Hodgkin, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Bates College, traced the history of Lewiston Grange #2 from its origins in the 1870s to its demise in the 1980s.



The ice cream eating contest is always a favorite activity of the Children's Games at Sudbury Canada Days.



Ben Conant (left) discusses western Maine apple marketing with Richard Taylor at the Society's October lecture, sponsored in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.



Jean Hankins, Ph.D., of the Otisfield Historical Society addressed the conference on women and the Grange.



1864—May 7—Cloudy and tonight it rains.

Pat has been harrowing today. Mrs. Straw called in here tonight and stopped an hour or two. Met Mrs. Willis at Unckle [sic] Orsons [sic] tonight. All was harmony. Amanda and Julia Foster are quite sick.. Went to the Point today. May 8—Went down to see how Fosters [sic] folks are getting along. They are better. Edwin came down today. Phylantha and Eugenia called in here to see Theresa. I gave them some herring and sent one down to the Deacon, and three to Mrs. Roberts. Rains some tonight. My mind is made up to spend the remainder of my days differently. Nathan Bean [probably the son of John E. and Hannah (McGill) Bean] drove a horse here tonight that would not hardly go. May 9—Sowed 6 ½ bushels of oats. Fixed the fence round the piece back of the pines. Went up on the mountain and got the colt. Phylantha, Eugenia, and Sarah called up to Unckle [sic] Orsons [sic] tonight. They set out to call here, but saw me writing and did not. The rest were all abed. Quite warm. May 10—Have been harrowing the corn ground today. Carried Theresa to a ride. Called James and got a gallon of alcohol. Caroline Simonds and Mrs. Barker have been here visiting this afternoon. I carried them home. Mrs. Morgan is very sick with diphtheria [sic]. We have quite a warm day and a thunder shower tonight. May 11—Fixed the fence between Milton and us. Eugenia and Sarah made a visit here this afternoon. I went down with them. Neville hung Phylantha and Eugenia a may-basket. I saw him and played Judas Iscariot. They all come [sic] up as far as the Capen brook and laid in wait to catch him. May 12—Went down to the Point to get some herds-grass seed; they had none. Went over to Wardwells [sic] and got my gig for Mr. Finney (Phinney) to fix. The Deacon sent down and got some tobacco. Aunt Sukey stays here tonight. Went down to Fosters [sic] and engaged some herds-grass seed. They caught Neville last night down by James [sic] watering place. James wants me to help him tomorrow. I told him I would We are going to change works. May 13—Worked for James G. Roberts with oxen, up to Mr. Williams [sic]. Had quite a time with Bela [Williams]. We were planning to go up & hang Neville Howard some maybaskets, but it looked so much like rain we did not go. We boys are going to dress up in the girls [sic] clothes. May 14—Pat got started to run away last night, but his heart failed him and he come [sic] back and laid in the barn. I gave him a severe chastizing this morning. Mellen Andrews and his two sisters stopped here two or three hours. Got out 6 loads of manure on the Gideon field [a field between the river intervale and the fields hear the road]. May 15—Staid [sic] with Almeron last night. Called into Mr. Straws [sic]. He gave me a trace of seed corn, and lent me a book. Almeron and I called down to Fosters [sic] to see a fellow by the name of Morse. He is a miserable fellow. Drove Herveys [sic] [Hastings] horse up to Miltons [sic]. Called into the Deacons [sic]. Phylantha and I went to James [sic]. We trained like thunder. We got into a squabble and had a good time but spoilt it all at last. I dreamed a queer dream last night at Miltons [sic] in which Eugenia Roberts was concerned. May 16—It has been a very warm day. Have been hauling manure. Got out twelve loads. Eugenia, Olive,

Emma and Sophia Roberts have called here today. Went down & hired thirty dollars of Mr. Reuben B. Foster. He would not take my note, but said he would remember when it was, just the same. May 17—Very warm day. Carried Theresa to Newry this forenoon. She was pretty tired when we got up there. Called in to see the ministers [sic] wife. She is quite slim. I do not think she will ever get well. She wanted me to get her some cider. I went down to the Deacons [sic] and got some and sent up by L. C. Smith. Ball has gone to Paris to settle up as administrator on this estate. Went up and helped Mr. Straw furrow out for corn. May 18—Commenced to plant corn today. Went down to Milton Roberts and got ½ bushel of seed corn. Sold three sheep skins for \$2.25 apiece. It has been quite warm today. Charles Henry and Alpha Powers [sons of Orson Powers] are coming down with the measles. Ball could not settle yesterday because he did not know enough to get ready. May 19—Have been planting corn. I let Charles have two bushels of potatoes, one bushel of oats, and one bushel of India wheat. I carried them up tonight. Went to see Theresa. She is getting better. Mother went down to the P.O. with Mrs. Straw. I guess I am going to have the measles. I have got the worst headache I ever had. May 19—I had a pretty sick night last night, but feel better tonight. My head does not ache so bad. Mrs. Milton and James Roberts called up here this forenoon and Eugenia and Aunt Sally called in this afternoon. The Deacon sent me up some cider by Eugenia. The neighbors have gone up to help Mr. Morgan. [No entries for May 21, 22, 23] May 24—[Listing of various measurements] A span, about 10 inches, a cubit, about 21 inches; a fathom, about 7 feet; a furlong, about 44 rods; a day's journey, about 33 miles, a Sabbath day's journey, about 7 furlongs; a mite, about 4 mills; a farthing, about three-quarters of a cent; a penny, fifteen cents, a talent of silver, about 15 hundred dollars; talent of gold, about 25,000 dollars.[No entries for May 25, 26] May 27—The cost of building the line fence between Unckle [sic] Orson and I is,—1 day, Edwin R. Lane, 1.25; 1 day, Bickmore Stearnes, .50, 1 day myself & oxen, 2.50; 1 day, Augustine & oxen, 2.50; 1 day, Nahum Frost, 1.25; 1 day, Edwin R. Lane, 1.25; 1 day, Milton, Almeron & Oxen, 3.75, 1 day, Wm. O. Straw, 1.25. May 28—[No entry] May 29—Have been quite sick with the measles as I have not been to write in my Diary. Bro. Ben Lufkin preached up here today. Eugenia called in here this morning. Also: William Barker called in. I walked out this morning for the first time since I have been sick. I was pretty weak. May 30—Walked up to Unckle Orsons [sic]. I was pretty tired and had to lay down and rest. Pat has been up helping fix fence between Mr. [Cyrus] Bartletts [sic] and us. The cows lay out tonight. May 31—Walked down to James this morning and stopped 3 or 4 hours. I said something about Eugenia the night she sit [sic] up with me, but she would not tell me what it was. Come up and took dinner with Liz. Olive S. Willis as there. Went down to the point tonight. June 1—Went up to Newry. Theresa and I went up to Agustines [sic] and made a visit in the afternoon. Pat washed the sheep this afternoon. Went to Sarahettes [sic] and stopped a little while in the forenoon. Staid to Edwins [sic] all night. Went into see Mrs. White. June 2—Theresa come [sic] with me this morning. She and Mother went down to Miltons [sic] visiting this afternoon. Went down to the village with B.B. Willis.



Alden Kennett demonstrates woodworking at Sudbury Canada Days

Met Bessey down by the pines and I took his horse up here, and he went over to Unckle [sic] Peters [sic] to see Mr. Stearns. June 3—Mr. Bessey staid here last night. Carried Theresa down to James. I went to the Point and got my gig. Paid Finney ten dollars for fixing it. The colt come [sic] very near staving me up to James [sic]. Edwin came down and got Theresa. Have been planting beans.

June 4—Finished planting beans today. I carried Fathers [sic] picture down & Jess [Howe] is going to take some photographs. Called into Mr. Straws [sic] and Aunt Julias [sic]. Mother went up visiting this afternoon. Fidelus [Stearns, son of B. F. Stearns] got home from Bridgton at three o'clock. June 5—Fidelus took dinner here today. Edwin and Theresa and I went down to the village and called James when he come [sic] back. J. R. Howard carried Eugenia over to her school. Fidelus and I went down to the village. We called to the Deacons [sic], James [sic], and Miltons [sic]. June 6—Loch and I have been fixing fence up in the sag. Went over to the pond fishing after supper. Did not get any. We went round the pond and come [sic] over across the Deacons [sic] mountain. We went out on the pond in a boat. The wind blew very hard. Lock cut the anchor and we came ashore. June 7—Went down to the Point to get the colt shod but Brown [James Monroe Brown] so much work to do, he could not shoe him. Mrs. Lang cut a pr. of pants for me. Went up to Newry. Staid to Sarahettes [sic] all night. Stella York staid with Sarahette. June 8—Got up this morning and went over to Ned's, before Sarahette was up. Helped Ned shear his sheep. We sheared twenty-five. Sarahette come [sic] over there visiting in the afternoon. Augustine went down and helped Foster wash sheep. Matilda and Walter come [sic] down here. June 9—Have been to work on the road this forenoon. This afternoon went down and got the colt shod. Milton Howard paid me fifty dollars for the mare we let him have instead of

the two colts. I am owing Bolster three dollars and eighty-five cents (3.85). Got five photographs that Jesse copied from fathers [sic] miniature. Paid him 1.00. June 10—Worked on the road in the forenoon; in the afternoon fixed up the fences. Pat has been harrowing for India wheat. Liz has been up to Unckle [sic] Orsons [sic] visiting this afternoon. I went up to have sing. It was measly enough. Shut up the hens tonight. June 11—went into the woods and hauled out two loads of fencing poles. Fixed the fence round the field back of the house. Sowed two bushes of India wheat. Mason has been down and sheared 22 sheep. Went up to Newry and paid Charles 50.00. Staid up to Charles [sic] all night. Unckle [sic] Peter staid there all night. June 12—Got up this morning and went over to Neds [sic] before Charles [sic] folks were up. Took breakfast there, and went up to see if I could get Augustine and Nahum to help me build a line fence between Ors and us. When I got home Mrs. James Roberts was here. I went down with her & cut Emmas [sic] hair. June 13—Sheared sheep for Mr. Mason. Sheared twenty-two. Went up to Mr. Straws [sic] and sheared twelve. Mason thought he had lost one fleece of wool. I was there shearing alone while the rest was eating their dinner. I thought they would think I took it, and felt rather blue, but remembered that Mason told me there was one sheep there in the morning. June 14—Sheared out sheep today. Ned come [sic] down and helped me. Mentioned to Unckle [sic] Ors about dividing the line tomorrow. He was bound not to build his part, so I notified the fence viewers. He has got to build his part or pay me for building it. Mr. Straw and wife and Mr. Straws [sic] brother, Daniel Straw paid me a call this evening. I asked Unckle [sic] Orson if it would be so he could help divide the line tomorrow."Well," he said, "I dont [sic] know, I don't [sic] think you'll build enough to pay for dividing it." Said I, "I shall have a line fence there and if you and I can divide it, we will; if not we will get some one to divide it." Said he, "Well you can get some one to divide it. I have got fence enough to build without building a line fence." June 15—Unckle Ors was notified today about a line fence. I will make the miserable devil toe the mark just as sure as I have my health. Sylvania (?), Mother and I went over to see Mrs. Robertson [Sally Saunders, wife of Jonathan Clark Robertson] today. Stopped at Ball Bartletts [sic] to dinner. Saw Sarah Powers. She said she was coming over next Saturday. We stopped to see Lydia [Robertson] Stevens. She is very pleasantly situated. She went over to her mothers [sic] with us. I carried her home. She is a might nice woman. Took supper to Mrs. Robertsons [sic]. Had a very pleasant visit. Come home by Bethel Hill. Charles and Sarahette were down today. Was very sorry we was [sic] gone. Bought two collars and two handkerchiefs. Got my spices at Ryersons [sic].

(to be continued in the next issue)

In Memoriam

Died, 16 October 2008, Rupert D. Conroy, Auburn, Life Member

Died, 21 October 2008, Addison Saunders, Ellsworth, Corporate Member

Died, 25 November 2008, Murray W. Thurston, Bethel, Life Member

Editor's Corner

This issue marks the first one published since the appearance of *The Broad Street Herald*, which is designed to focus on news of the Society, while *The Courier* will increasingly devote its pages to historical articles, book notes and reviews, as well as vintage photographs relating to the history of Northern New England with a special concentration on Western Maine and Northern New Hampshire. We will still publish some photos of Society events and activities, particularly those involving lectures and historical conferences. Any comments and suggestions on what readers would like to see in *The Courier* are always welcome.

The feature article in the last issue on my grandfather was very well received and prompted lots of responses, both verbal and written, including one from my former eighth grade history teacher, Society life member Charles Heino of Boothbay, who wrote, "Thank you for sharing your high school assignment of your 'grandfather theme.' It was not only very well done, but it also gave me much enjoyment as I read it."

This article accomplished one of its intended purposes by the response of a number of people who have come forward with possible submissions of their "grandfather themes." It is now very likely that we will publish at least some of these manuscripts in future issues of *The Courier*. Thank you readers!

One final note: On Page 7 in the last issue in the caption for the photo, cemetery is misspelled much to my chagrin. In revising the caption that often used "a" appears as the last vowel. It was long ago drilled into my head that "one takes his ease in the cemetery," reminding the writer that the place where people are buried after death only has "e's" and no "a." All our proofreaders also missed that one, so I don't feel quite so bad, but wanted to extend my mea culpa for that error. I certainly do know the difference!

SRH

Book Note

A Wind to Shake the World: The Story of the 1938 Hurricane. By Everett S. Allen. (Beverly, Massachusetts: Commonwealth Editions, 1976. Pp. 304. Paper. \$17.95)

One of the worst natural disasters to hit New York and New England was the one that occurred in September 1938. Winds clocked at 186 miles per hour resulted in much devastation of the region. Everett S. Allen's telling of this story was first published in 1976. Re-publication of this book in 2006 has been made possible with the permission of the author's widow. Allen was a journalist, who joined the staff of the New Bedford *Standard Times* in September 1938. The day after he was hired (21 September), "the storm of a century" blew into the region. Life was severely disrupted by this catastrophic storm. The death toll was 680 and the damage estimate over \$400,000,000—both totals in excess of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Readers looking for a very readable account by an eye witness should find this book of considerable interest.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12

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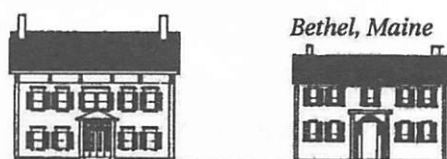
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